

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 186117

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, US, PFOR, ASEC, SOPN

SUBJECT: JULY 27 NOON BRIEFING

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM JULY 27 NOON BRIEFING:

QUOTE: Q: MR. FUNSETH, YESTERDAY WE CARRIED A STORY REPORTING THAT FOR ABOUT AN 18-MONTH PERIOD DURING 1967-68 THERE WERE SOME TESTS CONDUCTED ON PEOPLE, STATE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES GETTING BACK FROM MOSCOW, THAT WERE INTENDED TO DETECT POSSIBLE GENETIC DAMAGE--BREAKS IN THEIR CHROMOSOMES, AND SO FORTH.

THIS WAS VERIFIED BY TWO DOCTORS, ONE OF THEM WHO WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH TESTS, AND ANOTHER OF WHOM HAD SOME KNOWLEDGE OF THEM.

NOW, IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES AT THAT TIME WERE NOT TOLD THE ACTUAL PURPOSE OF THE TESTS BUT WERE INSTEAD TOLD THAT THE PURPOSE WAS SOMETHING TO EFFECT OF TO DETECT ABNORMAL BACTERIA IN THEIR MOUTHS.

NOW, MY QUESTION IS, CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THOSE TESTS? CAN YOU TELL US WHY THE STATE

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DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES AT THAT TIME WERE NOT TOLD THE ACTUAL

PURPOSE OF THEM? AND WHAT PLANS, IF ANY, THE DEPARTMENT HAS TO TELL THE EMPLOYEES WHO ARE INVOLVED THE RESULTS OF THOSE TESTS?

A: I WILL HAVE TO CHECK FOR ANSWERS. I DO NOT KNOW THAT EMPLOYEES WERE NOT INFORMED. I WILL TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q: OKAY.

A: THE FIRST QUESTION: THERE WERE SOME REVIEWS OF MEDICAL RECORDS IN THE PERIOD THAT YOU MENTIONED. I THINK IT WAS IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER OF 1965. AND OUR MEDICAL DIVISION DID REVIEW THE MEDICAL RECORDS OF ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED INDIVIDUALS. THAT INCLUDED EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS WHO HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO MOSCOW SINCE 1953. AND IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE RECORDS WERE REVIEWED IN DETAIL FOR MEDICAL CONDITIONS CONSIDERED POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT WHICH MIGHT HAVE ARISEN DURING THE TIME THEY WERE STATIONED IN MOSCOW.

I AM TOLD THAT NO RECOGNIZABLE PATTERNS OF DISEASE OR EVIDENCE OF RECURRING PROBLEMS WERE NOTED, AND NO INCIDENTS OF ABNORMALITIES APPEARED.

AS YOU KNOW, THERE HAS BEEN ANOTHER STUDY OF THE CHROMOSOME EFFECT ON THE MOSCOW SIGNAL. AND AGAIN WE HAVE HAD NO EVIDENCE THAT THERE WAS ANYTHING CAUSED BY THAT.

YOU KNOW, WE HAVE CONTRACTED FOR A NEW STUDY.

Q: DO THESE STUDIES INVOLVE TESTS? YOU SEEM TO HAVE STUDIOUSLY AVOIDED USING THE WORD "TESTS" IN TALKING ABOUT REVIEWS AND STUDIES.

A: YES, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THEY ARE TESTS.

Q: THEY INVOLVE TESTS, AND YOU DIDN'T TELL THE EMPLOYEES
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WHAT THEY WERE BEING TESTED FOR?

A: THAT IS THE QUESTION I HAVE TAKEN.

Q: OKAY.

Q: BOB, I AM PRETTY SURE THAT YOU WERE ASKED TWO OR THREE MONTHS AGO WHETHER ANY MEDICAL SURVEY HAD EVER BEEN

MADE OF EMPLOYEES IN MOSCOW TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THEY WERE DISEASED, AND THIS WAS DENIED.

A: I DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR STUDY WHICH WAS DONE IN 1965. AND, FRANKLY, I DO NOT RECALL WHETHER THE CONTEXT OF THE QUESTION WAS WITH PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN STATIONED IN MOSCOW BEFORE THE SIGNAL BECAME INTENSE OR IN THE PRESENT TIMEFRAME.

Q: WHEN WAS THE STUDY MADE AGAIN?

A: IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER OF 1965.

Q: NOW, CAN YOU CLARIFY THE TIME WHEN THE GENETIC TESTS WERE DONE, THE CHROMOSOME EXAMINATIONS?

A: I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK ON THAT.

Q: OKAY.

A: I DO NOT KNOW.

Q: WERE THERE OTHER TESTS BEYOND THIS NOW THAT YOU HAVE NOT TOLD US ABOUT, BOB?

A: THIS IS ALL THAT I HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF. I DO NOT KNOW OF ANY OTHERS.

Q: WELL, SINCE THAT WAS ABOUT THE SAME ANSWER YOU GAVE US SEVERAL MONTHS AGO TOO, AND THIS TURNED UP, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD PUT ANOTHER QUERY TO THE MEDICAL PEOPLE AND FIND OUT HOW MANY TESTS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED
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AND WHEN AND WHERE AND THE CONDITION.

A: I WILL.

Q: DID YOU SAY THERE WAS ANOTHER STUDY UNDER WAY NOW?

A: YES. WE HAD ANNOUNCED SOME WEEKS AGO THAT WE HAD SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH JOHNS HOPKINS TO DO A STUDY.

Q: WAS THIS STUDY IN 1965 DONE ON CONTRACT WITH AN OUTSIDE INSTITUTION SUCH AS JOHNS HOPKINS, OR WAS IT DONE ENTIRELY IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A: IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING IT WAS DONE BY THE MEDICAL DIVISION. THEY MAY HAVE EMPLOYED OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS,

BUT IT WAS, AS CONTRASTED WITH THE PRESENT CONTRACT

WE HAVE WITH JOHNS HOPKINS, PERFORMED BY THE MEDICAL
DIVISION.

Q: DO YOU HAVE WHAT PROMPTED THAT REVIEW?

A: NO.

Q: COULD YOU FIND OUT, PLEASE?

A: YES. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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